THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sophisticated Weapons by N. E. Insurgent

4034. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the insurgent groups who are active in the North Eastern States have been using highly sophisticated arms ;

(b) if so,where from and how these groups are procuring these sophisticated weapons ; and

(c) whether the I.S.I. and other foreign agencies are behind these insurgent groups ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) According to information available, these sophisticated weapons are mainly being sourced from certain South East Asian Countries and smuggled across the international border into India.

(c) ISI of Pakistan has come to notice for providing assistance by way of arms, training and material support to Indian militant groups in the North East.

Anti-Social Activities on UP-Nepal Border

4035. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether anti-social elements are active on UP-Nepal Border ; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to flush out such elements and prevent misuse of educational institutions on the border by such elements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) Reports indicate that smuggling

and criminal syndicates with trans-border linkages are active on UP-Nepal border. In order to check the activities of trans-border smugglers, Pak ISI operatives, anti-social elements etc., the State Government of Uttar Pradesh have set-up Border Task Force. Government of India has also sanctioned some additional intelligence posts for keeping vigilance along the Indo-Nepal border. State Government of Uttar Pradesh has also been advised to invoke the provisions of the Religious institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1998 to prevent the misuse of such institutions along the border by anti-national elements.

ISI Activities on UP-Nepal Border

4036. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre received Intelligence warning about escalation of ISI activities on UP-Nepal border during the past nine months;

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to deal firmly with the cross border activities and infiltration in the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) The Indo-Nepal border has historically been an open border with a Visa-Free Travel Regime. Recently, instances of misuse of this open border for staging terrorist activities directed against India, sponsored by Pak ISI, have come to the notice of the Government of India. In order to prevent the misuse of Indo-Nepal border by anti-India elements, the concerned agencies of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and Government of India are in reagular touch, both directly and through bi-lateral institutional mechanism. As a result of this cooperation several terrorist conspiracies sponsored by Pakistan have neutralised in recent years. Government of Uttar Pradesh have taken measures to strengthen policing of the Uttar Pradesh-Nepal border. Central Govenment has also sanctioned some additional intelligence posts for keeping vigilance along this border.

Deployment of BSF in Tripura

4037. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :